

September 14, 2021

Chairman Stephen A. Huffman
Ohio Senate Health Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Hello Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I write to testify in support of Senate Bill 151 – a piece of legislation written by Ohio resident Amanda Finnefrock. I first learned of Amanda's story one year ago when she reached out to the organization I work with. In remembrance of the twins she lost 3 years prior, she requested we share an article she authored with our online audience on the bewildering story of medical neglect experienced by her boys Elliot and Emery. The following day, on the 3rd anniversary of their birth and death, we posted the article to our social media.

Another reason for spreading the piece was to, essentially, get us to where we are today: at this committee hearing. Concerned citizens from near and far are urging you to create medical standards and oversight mechanisms which will ensure that this doesn't happen to any other Ohio family in the future. The determination of an individual child's viability after birth must be a consistent and dependable practice in every hospital across the state. This would ensure that every family with a healthy and viable newborn, capable of being assisted, can consent to their transfer to appropriate medical facilities.

Any legislative or oversight body that allows a child without any sort of terminal health condition to either receive palliative care or suffer neglect is utterly failing in their duties. This committee must join the movement putting preventative safeguards in place. Members, please join together and fight as a united front when it comes time to question those opposing SB151. Caring for born children and providing parents with informed consent are thoroughly uncontroversial positions to take. Please champion this bill. Please pass Emery and Elliot's Law.

Thank you for your time.

Robert Byrd
Executive Coordinator
Pro-Life San Francisco